

VZCZCXYZ0002
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLP #1166 1161706
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 261706Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3361
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6732
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 4062
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7950
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5198
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2428
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 2555
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3436
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4567
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5068
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9651
RHMFIUU/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0283
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS LA PAZ 001166

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STATE FOR WHA/AND
TREASURY FOR SGOOCH
ENERGY FOR CDAY AND SLADISLAW

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [BL](#)
SUBJECT: DONATED VENEZUELAN TRACTORS CANNOT BE USED

1. (U) Several press reports throughout the month of April have noted that over 300 Venezuelan-Iranian-made tractors donated to municipalities throughout Bolivia over the past few months by Venezuela under the auspices of the People's Trade Agreement (TCP) and the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) have been sitting idly due to their lack of plows and other essential parts. On April 21, eight municipalities denounced that the donated tractors were useless without the parts, and the agriculture minister responded that it was the responsibility of the municipalities to purchase the parts. The mayors have complained that the parts cannot be funded because municipal budgets have already been determined and that the tractors have caused problems among residents because there are not enough tractors to serve everyone. One mayor reportedly requested permission from the GOB to sell his town's tractors and use the money to buy a bulldozer for road maintenance.

2. (U) Comment: The donation of Venezuelan tractors, carried out with much fanfare, initially increased GOB popularity but is now becoming a thorn in its side. End comment.
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